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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,260	07/06/2001	Toshikazu Higashi	018656-234	3456
7590	04/10/2006		EXAMINER	
Platon N. Mandros BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404			LIVERSEDGE, JENNIFER L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	
DATE MAILED: 04/10/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/899,260	HIGASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennifer Liversedge	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/14/2001</u> | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: S110 on Figure 7. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is unclear from the claim language what the claimed system is composed of.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Patent No. 6,295,482 B1 to Tognazzini.

Regarding claim 1, Tognazzini discloses an information processing method comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and electronic money by which payment for information

processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Making a request that whether the received electronic money is valid or not be checked (column 1, lines 66-67; column 7, lines 26-30; Figures 7, 12-14); and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, automatically starting the processing of the data to be information-processed (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 2, Tognazzini discloses an information processing method comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Relating the received data to be information-processed and the electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 60-67; column 2, lines 41-46; column 7, lines 24-30; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3);

Making a request that whether the received electronic money is valid or not be checked (column 1, lines 66-67; column 7, lines 26-30; Figures 7, 12-14); and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, performing the processing of the data to be information-processed related to the electronic money

Art Unit: 3628

confirmed to be valid (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 3, Tognazzini discloses an electronic payment method comprising the steps of:

Receiving, through a network, data to be information-processed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20) and electronic money by which payment for information processing is made (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Associating the data with the electronic money (column 1, lines 60-67; column 2, lines 41-46; column 7, lines 24-30; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3);

Making a request that whether the received electronic money is valid or not be checked (column 1, lines 66-67; column 7, lines 26-30; Figures 7, 12-14); and

When the received electronic money is confirmed to be valid, starting the processing of the data which is associated with the valid electronic money (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 4, Tognazzini discloses a system for making payment by electronic money in which a user side subsystem including a user's terminal, an electronic money issuer side subsystem including an electronic money issuing server and a processor side subsystem including a data processor that performs a processing

based on processing request data from the user are connected to one another through a network (column 1, line 60 – column 2, line 8; column 5, line 15 – column 6, line 22),

Wherein the processing request data and electronic money data including electronic money issued by the electronic money issuer side subsystem are transmitted from the user side subsystem to the processor side subsystem, the electronic money data is further transmitted from the processor side subsystem to the electronic money issuer side subsystem, whether the electronic money is valid or not is checked, and the processor side subsystem performs the processing based on the processing request data in accordance with a result of the check and transmits a request for payment for the processing to the electronic money issuer side subsystem (column 2, lines 42-44; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 26).

Regarding claim 5, Tognazzini discloses an electronic money processor comprising:

Receiving member (column 10, lines 27-39) which receives processing request data transmitted from a user through a network and based on which a processing requested by the user is executed (column 1, lines 60-65; column 3, lines 12-20), and electronic money data transmitted from the user through the network and including electronic money issued by an electronic money issuer (column 1, lines 66-67; column 3, lines 1-2 and 21-23; Figures 7 and 12-14);

Memory in which the processing request data received by the receiving member is stored (column 5, lines 34-48; column 7, lines 24-30);

Transmitter which transmits the electronic money data received by the receiving member to the electronic money issuer to check whether the electronic money is valid or not (column 1, lines 66-67; column 7, lines 26-30; Figures 7, 12-14); and

Execution controller which controls execution of the processing based on the processing request data corresponding to the electronic money data and stored in the memory in accordance with a result of the check of validity of the electronic money (column 2, lines 42-44; column 3, lines 12-23; column 9, line 59 – column 10, line 3; Figures 7, 12-14).

Regarding claim 6, Tognazzini discloses an electronic money processor wherein when the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, said transmitter transmits warning information that the electronic money is not confirmed to be valid, to the user who transmitted the electronic money data including the electronic money (column 8, lines 6-25 and lines 53-61).

Regarding claim 7, Tognazzini discloses an image forming apparatus comprising the electronic money processor as claim in claim 5, further comprising an image forming portion in which execution of the processing based on the processing request data is controlled by the execution control means of the electronic money processor (column 5, lines 26-34).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6,535,791 B1 to Wang discloses electronic information processing, which authorizes payment, uses a wireless network over which to convey information, and creates print jobs for the printing of information following payment verification.

"Research in Motion Renews Supply Agreement with Lipman USA" in Canada NewsWire, Dec. 1999 discloses electronic funds transfer devices integrated in business devices such as printers.

"RDM Corporation Announces Internet Based Payment Archive Service" in PR Newswire, June 2000 discloses electronic payment to such devices as printers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jennifer Liversedge whose telephone number is 571-272-3167. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Friday, 8:30 – 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sam Sough can be reached at 571-272-6799. The fax number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

Art Unit: 3628

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jennifer Liversedge

Examiner

Art Unit 3628



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